

Let's connect

Blessed is the king who comes  
in the name of the Lord! Peace  
in Heaven and glory in the highest!

Luke 19:38 (NIV)

Connect Groups Study | Study 3. From God's Heart to Our Hearts



## STUDY 3

## FROM GOD'S HEART TO OUR HEARTS

### SCRIPTURES

Luke 21:1-4  
Luke 21:7-38

#### Background, context, and observations

Our world is hurting, especially in this period of 'earthquakes, famine and pestilence' (v.11), 'fearful events', where we are 'weighed down with the anxieties of life' (v.34) and there is 'great distress in the land' (v.23) - there is no greater time where God fervently wants all people to know his love for us. Easter is the ultimate expression of God's heart to our hearts.

We know the gift and significance of Jesus as 'Emmanuel' (God with us) at the beginning of His life with His birth and naming. But what about Jesus as 'Emmanuel' (God with us) at His Passion and life's end? Consider how He identifies most intimately with our pain and suffering - and offering us the same resurrecting power God gave His son, Jesus.

Re-read Luke 21:19 - Is there a better time where we can heed Jesus' encouragement to us, and draw upon his resurrecting power to (v.28) 'stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is drawing near'? God's heart to our hearts is: to lead us to stand before Him (salvation); to give us words and wisdom (revelation); that we stand up (courage) and stand firm (conviction); that we lift up our heads (faith); be careful with our hearts (attuned); always be on the watch (prophetic); to pray (intimacy); to win life (fullness).

#### Example Questions for Discussion

1. Read Luke 21:1-4. How could the widow's small offering have been "more than all the others"? What is the significance of 'sacrifice' with the widow's offering story? Do you ever feel like what you have to offer God is small? Or perhaps it feels large? Do either of those perspectives impact your willingness and readiness to offer it to God in worship?
2. Read Luke 13:6-9 with the parable of the barren fig tree. What is the significance of a fig tree flowering, but not fruiting? Now Luke 21:29-33 where Jesus shares, again, a parable of a fig tree. Why do you think Jesus was repeating this image here?
3. Tie it all together. Is there a common thread with a jewel-adorned Temple (Israel as God's people... but were they living it?), a widow's sacrifice of everything she had, and the gift and urgency of living in Jesus' redemptive power in difficult times? What is God's heart for our hearts? How does God's heart for people impact your heart for people this Easter?

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### Dive Deeper

**Related scriptures:** I Chronicles 28:11; Amos 5:21-24 and John 2:19-21

### For further consideration:

1. Read the passages above. Examine the importance of the Temple to Israel; and explore why Jesus talked of 'tearing it down and rebuilding it in three days' - what was He really saying about it? As God's people, were they reflecting His heart to the world?
2. Research the significance of Jesus' words about the Temple (Luke 21:5-6) and what was to come (the Temple's destruction in 70AD).
3. In preparing for Easter - what is the importance of this chapter in relation to what was to come with Jesus' Passion (Luke 22-24)?

### For further study:

**Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense** - N.T. Wright.

**Luke 21 - YouVersion** - The Message version

**The Bible Project: Luke/Acts series, Episode 4**

[bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-luke-4/](https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-luke-4/)

*With thanks to Marley from Melbourne City*

### Connect

Take time to pray for each other and align with comms

### Grow

Something that aligns with comms

link

### Serve

CityCare

